9. Chikmagalur-Kodagu Gramin Bank
10. Sahyadri Gramin Bank
11. Netravati Gramin Bank
12. Varada Gramin Bank
13. Vishveswarayya Gramin Bank

Smuggled goods sold in Palika Bazar

1908. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that foreign smuggled goods are being freely sold on the pavements and in Palika Bazar in Delhi;

(b) what action has been taken against the persons so far arrested for selling the same; and

(c) what are the source from where these vendors get these foreign goods for sale and what action Government propose to take to prevent this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Consumer goods of foreign origin are at times found to be sold from pavements and some of the shops in Palika Bazar, New Delhi.

(b) To prevent and check open display and sale of smuggled goods, the Customs authorities conduct periodical raids and searches. During the year 1986, the Customs authorities conducted 41 raids/searches on vendors, hawkers and shop owners in the principal markets of Delhi including Palika Bazar displaying and selling foreign goods. As a result, goods of foreign origin valued at Rs. 2.69 lakhs were seized.

(c) The following have been identified as the main sources of supply of goods:—

(i) Goods brought by Indian passengers and foreign tourists as their personal baggage either free of Customs duty or on payment of duty/fine under Baggage Rules and sold;

(ii) Spurious goods sold by using foreign brand names;

(iii) Consumers goods smuggled into the country through land borders/sea-coast.

The anti-smuggling drive in general has been intensified. Raids and searches are conducted periodically to unearth the contraband goods at the storage places.

Whole-sale Price Index

1909. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the whole-sale price index is successively increasing in the last three months; and

(b) if so, what was the whole-sale price index in the end of February, 1987 and how does it compare with the Price Index at the end of February, 1986 and how is it compatible with the Government claim that the inflation has been contained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The wholesale price index (WPI) (1970-71=100) for the week ending 21.2.1987 (latest available) was 379.7, compared with 379.2 on 22.11.1986, 377.5 on 20.12.1986 and 380.6 on 24.1.1987. The WPI for the last week of February, 1986 i.e. 22.2.1986 was 358.9.

The annual rate of inflation as on 21.2.1987 was 5.8 per cent as compared with 5.4 per cent as on 22nd February last year.